

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising:

a part that receives a personal certificate;

a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified,

wherein the predetermined elements includes an element allocated for representing a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

2. (Original) The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 1, wherein the at least one of the predetermined elements is an organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) A web server computer system comprising:

a part that receives a personal certificate;

a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the received personal certificate is successfully verified,

wherein the predetermined elements includes an element allocated for representing a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

5. (Currently Amended) A web server computer system comprising:

a part that receives a personal certificate;

a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

a part that allocates a session identifier when the received personal certificate is successfully verified;

a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate;

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the received personal certificate is successfully verified; and

a part that stores the determined access right associated with the session identifier,

wherein the predetermined elements includes an element allocated for representing a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

6. (Original) The web server computer system according to claim 5, wherein the at least one of the predetermined elements is an organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element

of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the certificate belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID so as to process the subject name, the apparatus comprising:

a part that receives the personal certificate;

a part that extracts a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right at least based on an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element,

wherein the predetermined element in a hierarchy of the subject name represents a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

9. (Original) The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents that the holder of the certificate is not a member of an organization represented by the organization name and that the holder cooperates with the organization.

10. (Original) The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents a project name in which the holder takes part.

11. (Original) The apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate according to claim 8, wherein the organizational unit name of a predetermined hierarchy of the subject name represents a cooperating organization name which cooperates with an organization represented by the organization name and to which the holder belongs.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Canceled).

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising the steps of:

receiving a personal certificate;

verifying the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

extracting at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified, wherein the predetermined elements includes an element allocated for representing a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the personal certificate belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID so as to process the subject name, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the personal certificate;

extracting a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right at least based on an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element,

wherein the predetermined element in a hierarchy of the subject name represents a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

17. (Currently Amended) A storage medium readable by a computer, the storage medium storing a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a function for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, the function comprising the steps of:

receiving a personal certificate;

verifying the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

extracting at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified,  
wherein the predetermined elements includes an element allocated for representing a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

18. (Currently Amended) A storage medium readable by a computer, the storage medium storing a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a function for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, which receives a personal certificate in which a predetermined element of a subject name represents an organization to which a holder of the personal certificate belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID so as to process the subject name, the function comprising the steps of:

receiving the personal certificate;

extracting a predetermined element in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

determining an access right at least based on an organization to which a holder belongs and an attribute other than a personal ID represented by a value of the predetermined element,

wherein the predetermined element in a hierarchy of the subject name represents a purpose of operation to be operated by the holder of the personal certificate.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) An apparatus for processing a subject name included in a personal certificate, comprising:

a part that receives a personal certificate;

a part that verifies the received personal certificate based on a digital signature technique;

a part that extracts at least one of predetermined elements in a hierarchy of a subject name included in the received personal certificate; and

a part that determines an access right of a holder of the personal certificate based on a value of the at least one predetermined element when the personal certificate is successfully verified,

wherein the predetermined elements includes an organizational unit name allocated for representing a project name and a common name allocated for representing a purpose of operation of the project.